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English 553 - Shakespeare

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Shakespeare’s Shrews: An Annotated Bibliography

Brooks, Charles. “Shakespeare's Romantic Shrews.” *Shakespeare Quarterly*, Vol. 11, No. 3

(Summer, 1960), pp. 351-356.

The premise of this journal article is looking at two leading women in Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Despite their shrewish nature, they act with love, determination and intelligence. While their current aggressive behavior may be frowned upon, they will follow the norms of society once they meet and obtain a suitable partner.

This source supports the essay thesis and offers information about plays not discussed in the other articles. It offers a great deal of information pertaining to the two leading women in these plays and how they do not behave according to social norms of the time. One difficulty might be the limited knowledge I have about *The Comedy of Errors*. I will need to read this play in addition to continuing my research. Plays mentioned include: *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Hankey, Julie. “Victorian Portias: Shakespeare's Borderline Heroine.” *Shakespeare Quarterly*,

Vol. 45, No. 4 (Winter, 1994), pp. 426-448.

This journal addresses the way Shakespeare understood female psychology before the time women were allowed to behave in their true nature. The article credits Shakespeare with writing true women of passion who were not content in being socially inferior to men.

This source will be useful. It addresses characters in play that my other annotations do not address. This essay directly mentions my topic regarding middle class Elizabethan women and their education. Again, the article mentions several plays I have not read. Additional study of these plays will be needed to better understand the nature of the women. Plays mentioned include: *The Merchant of Venice* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.

Jardine, Lisa. “Cultural Confusion and Shakespeare's Learned Heroines: ‘These are old

paradoxes.’” *Shakespeare Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Spring, 1987), pp. 1-18.

This journal address the intellectual life of Renaissance women. It addresses both formal and informal education of women. It looks at education the women gain from life experience, and relates that women control when and where they act in certain ways, often using their feminine ways to get what they want.

While the article starts out discussing Othello(a tragedy), it goes on the discuss two comedies. This article will be useful to my essay. Again, I will need to study plays not previously read. Plays mentioned include: *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *All’s Well That Ends Well*, and *Pericles.*